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LABOR PRODUCTIVITY IN LATVIAN SSR
INCREASES IN POSTWAR FIVE-YEAR PERIOD

During the first 2 years of the postwar Five-Year Plan (1946-47) industrial output in the Latvian SSR increased 2.7 times over 1945 and exceeded the prewar level. In the same period, the number of workers and employees in the republic increased only 1.8 times. Thus, labor productivity in Latvian industry had increased 1.5 times by 1947, as compared with 1945. In 1948, labor productivity in Latvian industry continued to grow. During that year, the number of workers increased by 8 percent, but industrial output increased 42 percent over 1947. Therefore, labor productivity in 1948 increased more than 33 percent over 1947 and doubled the 1945 figure. In 1949 and 1950, labor productivity increased each year by 11 to 12.5 percent. Compared with 1945, labor productivity during the postwar Five-Year Plan increased 2.5 times.

More than 50 percent of the 1948 output of the local fuel industry in the Latvian SSR and almost 50 percent of the 1949 output of this industry were produced on the basis of increased labor productivity. Labor productivity had an even greater effect on the increase of production in local industry. In 1948 and 1949, more than 66 percent of the yearly production increase was achieved by raising labor productivity.

New machines and new work methods were introduced into Latvian plants in the postwar period. The Riga Railroad Car Plant introduced automatic welding methods, speeding up the welding of horizontal seams from 8-10 meters per hour to 50-60 meters per hour. There have been many similar examples in other plants and factories.

The introduction of progressive norms had a considerable effect on the increase of labor productivity in Latvian industry. However, although a number of enterprises developed and introduced progressive work norms, there were others in which the assimilation of norms progressed very slowly. Some enterprises,

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especially of local industry, were setting up technical progressive norms incorrectly as late as 1948. This appears from the following table which shows the average annual fulfillment of output norms in enterprises of the Metal Trust, Ministry of Local Industry Latvian SSR, during 1948.

<u>Name of Enterprise</u>	<u>Average Fulfillment of Work Norm Established for 1948 (in percent)</u>
Sarkanais Metalists [probably should read "Sarkanais Metalurģs"]	177.1
Ekonomizators	204.0
Metalists	153.6
Baltijas rūpnieks	170.0
Uzvara	203.0
Imanta	198.7
Spring-manufacturing plant	202.6

The high percentage of norm overfulfillment in the above-named enterprises, which were not outstanding for their complete utilization of working time and working equipment, proves that the established norms were too low, i.e., that they had no technical foundation.

The Stakhanovite movement has developed rapidly in the Latvian SSR. As of 1 January 1945, there were 299 Stakhanovites in Latvian industry, transport and construction; on 1 January 1946, there were 18,845; and on 1 January 1947, 30,275. In 1947 and 1948, the number of Stakhanovites increased by 7,720 and 6,000, respectively. On 1 January 1950, there were 54,000 Stakhanovites in the Latvian SSR.

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